Octavio Armand–Translated by Carol Maier

Conversation with a Flame - Son de ausencia (1999)

You play at being night, grow dark, you sky copier, trying to learn a tongue that will die with your breath. You know how to bet with night, follow the arrow as it pierces each lid like a dream. You bite the sun, bite the small flame in its dance with your breath. Night forms little by little dreams day's simultaneous beauty. Like an animal, light wakes us. A cock weaving time with colors and curing with mirrors. I leave my eyes, leap from my mouth, my pores on fire. Ceremonies for speaking. Flame that speaks what you burn. Your name a constellation ablaze on the sky roofing my mouth. Your body a constellation between my eyelids. The abyss a dark flower. Light, disentangle me, despoil me. Fingering my chin, I search for myself, touch my shadow. Walk through a flame to the bottom of things. Leafless, my clover Blooms inward, toward you. Don't place more numbers between the light and the known. To converse you must burn a small white candle and stay close to the sky.